

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 301426

12

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00

OPIC-03 XMB-02 AGR-05 LAB-04 HEW-02 HUD-01 DOTE-00

NAS-01 NSF-01 FAA-00 ERDA-05 NSC-05 OES-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 STR-04 /081 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:LRMURRAY:MP

APPROVED BY E:RPOATS

NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL

AID/NENA:ASCHWARTZWALDER

EB/CBS/OSB:DBRAMANTE

COMMERCE (CAGNE):LJENSEN

COMMERCE(CAGNE) PHALE

TREASURY:LATLAS

OPIC:PMCCALLUM S/S-MR. ORTIZ

EXIM:LLAROCHE (SUBS)

----- 008438

R 231707Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 301426

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:USTSJC, ETRD, EINV, BEXP, TS

SUBJECT: US-TUNISIA JOINT COMMISSION:TRADE AND INVESTMENT
WORKING GROUPS AND BUSINESS COUNCIL/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

REFS: A. TUNIS 7331; B. TUNIS 6757 (PARA 3)

1. WE WELCOME GOT DESIRE PROCEED WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF
WORKING GROUPS ON TRADE AND ON TRIANGULAR INVESTMENT
PROJECTS. WE SUGGEST WORKING GROUPS FUNCTION AS LOCAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 301426

INTERAGENCY GROUPS IN BOTH CAPITALS, WITH PARTICIPATION AS

NEEDED RESPECTIVELY BY REPRESENTATIVE FROM AMEMBASSY TUNIS AND TUNISIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON. SUGGEST PRIMARY PURPOSE OF WORKING GROUPS IS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC ISSUES RAISED DURING AND SUBSEQUENT TO JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS, AND TO PROVIDE CONTACT POINTS FOR FOLLOW-UP BY BOTH SIDES.

2. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY THAT WORKING GROUPS SHOULD BE SMALL AND INFORMAL. WE DO NOT BELIEVE EITHER SHOULD MEET ON REGULAR BASIS, BUT THAT THEY SHOULD REPRESENT FRAMEWORK FOR ONGOING ATTENTION TO SPECIFIC TASKS NOTED ABOVE.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT ANNUAL MEETINGS OF JOINT COMMISSION AND SUBCOMMISSIONS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET NEEDS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AND THAT SCHEDULED FORMAL JOINT MEETINGS OF WORKING GROUPS WOULD BE REDUNDANT AS WELL AS TIME CONSUMING. AS YEAR PROGRESSES, COORDINATORS OF WORKING GROUPS SHOULD SUBMIT REPORTS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES TO CO-CHAIRMAN OF SUBCOMMISSION ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT, WHO WOULD REVIEW SUCH ACTIVITIES IN SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS. CO-CHAIRMAN WOULD ALSO OVERSEE GENERAL OPERATIONS OF WORKING GROUPS, GIVING SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPECTIVE WORKING GROUP COORDINATORS AS REQUIRED.

4. WE ENVISAGE NO PARALLEL MEETING. WE CONCUR THAT EMBASSY ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS SHOULD REPRESENT US SIDE IN TUNIS AND SUGGEST EQUIVALENT TUNISIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS AS LIAISON WITH WASHINGTON WORKING GROUPS. WE DO NOT FORESEE NEED FOR WASHINGTON-BASED REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND TUNIS MEETINGS OR VICE VERSA. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE PRACTICALITY AND SIMPLICITY OF WORKING GROUPS RATHER THAN INSTITUTIONALIZE THEM.

5. TRADE WORKING GROUP: AS NOTED REF B PARA D, PURPOSE IS TO CONSIDER ALLEVIATION OF CONSTRAINTS ON EXPANSION OF BILATERAL COMMERCIAL TRADE. MANY RELATED ISSUES RAISED DURING OCTOBER SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS COULD BE PURSUED WITHIN CONTEXT OF THIS WORKING GROUP; E.G., PAYMENT PROCEDURES BY US BANKS, ARTIFICIAL DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE, GOT IMPORT LICENSING, US GSP IMPLEMENTATION, AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES WHICH MIGHT ARISE. PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 301426

WASHINGTON -BASED GROUP IS: COMMERCE: US COORDINATOR PETER B. HALE (DIRECTOR CAGNE); LARON JENSEN (CAGNE). STATE: LEWIS MURRAY (NEA/AFN); JAMES CHEEK (NEA/RA); DONALD BRAMANTE (EB/OSB). TREASURY: LIANE ATLAS. EXIMBANK: (NAMES AS NEEDED ON SPECIFIC ISSUES) TUNISIAN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE: (TO BE NAM). INVESTMENT WORKING GROUP: PER REF B PARA K, PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO IDENTIFY, STUDY AND FACILITATE IMPLEMENTA-

TION OF TRIANGULAR INVESTMENT PROJECTS. WE VIEW SUCH PROJECTS AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR US ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS, AND US EQUITY INVESTORS. IS WORKING GROUP MIGHT USEFULLY CONSIDER AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON OTHER TUNISIAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL. PRIMARY USG ACTION AGENCIES ON TRIANGULAR INVESTMENT PROJECTS WILL BE DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND TREASURY, AND OPIC. WE BELIEVE WORKING GROUP CAN APPROPRIATELY ASSIST IN CONCEPTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECTS FOR PRESENTATION TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS, BUT THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING CAPITAL FROM ARAB OR OTHER SOURCES FOR TRIANGULAR INVESTMENT PROJECTS IS PRIMARILY THAT OF GOT RATHER THAN OF WORKING GROUP OR USG. PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP OF WASHINGTON-BASED GROUP IS: COMMERCE: US COORDINATOR PETER B. HALE (DIRECTOR CAGNE); ALBERT PLANIGAN OR ALTERNATE SUSAN BLACKMAN (CAGNE PROJECTS STAFF); LARON JENSEN (CAGNE).

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

STATE: LEWIS MURRAY (NEA/AFN); JAMES CHEEK (NEA/RA); DONALD BRAMENTE (EB/OSB). TREASURY: LIANE ATLAS. OPIC: PHILIP MCCALLUM. EXIM: (NAMES AS NEEDED ON SPECIFIC ISSUES) TUNISIAN REPRESENTATIVE: (TO BE NAMED).

7. JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL OR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: IN OCTOBER GOT SUGGESTED A JOINT COUNCIL OF BUSINESSMEN AND BANKERS, POSSIBLY TAKING FORM OF TUNISIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. (PLEASE NOTE THAT SUCH BUSINESS GROUPS ORGANIZED IN ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER JOINT COMMISSIONS HAVE BEEN CALLED JOINT BUSINESS COUNCILS, AND US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROVIDES SECRETARIAL SERVICES FOR SUCH BODIES. LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE MAY BE ORGANIZED SPONTANEOUSLY OR IN ASSOCIATION WITH A JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL, AND OFTEN BUT NOT NECESSARILY BECOME AFFILIATED WITH US CHAMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 301426

COMMERCE, WASHINGTON, UNDER LATTER'S RULES AND REGULATIONS.) SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAVE SPOKEN WITH US CHAMBER OFFICIALS WHO INDICATE NO INTEREST AT THIS TIME IN SPONSORING AN AMERICAN CHAMBER IN TUNIS OR IN FUNCTIONING AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL. AS CONSEQUENCE, ANY ORGANIZATION TO BE FORMED AT THIS TIME WOULD HAVE TO FUND AND STAFF ITS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FROM MEMBERS' OWN RESOURCES, AND WOULD HAVE TO CARRY ENTIRE ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY BY ITSELF.

8. IN ADDITION, COMMERCE HAS INFORMALLY POLLED A NUMBER OF FIRMS TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF INTEREST IN FORMING EITHER COUNCIL OR CHAMBER. INITIAL REACTION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY POSITIVE IN PRINCIPLE, BUT WITH NO COMMITMENTS

ON PART OF RESPONDENTS.

9. EMBASSY MAY WISH PROCEED WITH SIMILAR POLL OF US FIRMS IN TUNIS. RESPONDENTS SHOULD BE ASKED FOR FRANK APPRAISAL OF VALUE OF EITHER COUNCIL OR CHAMBER IN THEIR OPINION AND, IF POSITIVE, THE WILLINGNESS OF COMPANY TO FUND OR STAFF THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE ASCERTAINED. EMBASSY SHOULD SPECIFY CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMALITY OF SUCH SOUNDINGS WHICH ARE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY IN PREPARATION FOR DISCUSSION OF GOT PROPOSAL IN NEXT YEAR'S JOINT COMMISSION MEETING.

10. REF WORKING GROUP COMMITMENTS MADE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMISSION, CENTER OF ONGOING ACTIVITY WILL BE WITH AID MISSION IN TUNIS. RURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP ALREADY ESTABLISHED; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE ORGANIZED ALONG SIMILAR LINES. WASHINGTON CONTACT POINTS WILL BE EXISTING PROJECT COMMITTEES. HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING REVIEW SCHEDULED FOR EARLY JANUARY.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD EXPLAIN USG THINKING ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT WORKING GROUPS TO APPROPRIATE GOT OFFICIALS AND SEEK TO ASCERTAIN NAME OF TUNISIAN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE AS POINTS OF CONTACT IN WASHINGTON. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON WORKING GROUPS TO BE ESTABLISHED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 301426

IN TUNIS AND PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE301426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LRMURRAY:MP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750446-0517
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751218/aaaaapmc.tel
Line Count: 202
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TUNIS 7331, 76 TUNIS 6757
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-TUNISIA JOINT COMMISSION:TRADE AND INVESTMENT WORKING GROUPS AND BUSINESS COUNCIL/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TAGS: ETRD, EINV, BEXP, TS, USTSJC
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006